Type I and II Ground Disturbing Categorical Exclusion Action Classification Form

STIP Project No.	B-5511
WBS Element	17BP.6.R.101, 17BP.6.R.102
Federal Project No.	

A. <u>Project Description</u>: The proposed project involves the replacement of Bridge Numbers 399 and 400 carrying SR 1741 (Old Stage Road) over Big Marsh Swamp, in Robeson County.

Bridge Numbers 399 and 400 will both be replaced with bridges approximately 110 feet long. The new bridges will have a 30-foot ten-inch clear roadway width with two 11-foot lanes and four-foot five-inch offsets. The bridge lengths are based on preliminary design information and set by hydraulic requirements. The roadway grade of the new structures will be approximately the same as the existing bridges.

Project construction will extend approximately 150 feet from the west end of the replacement for Bridge Number 399 and approximately 190 feet from the east end of the replacement for Bridge Number 400. SR 1741 will be widened to two 11-foot lanes with six-foot shoulders (two-foot paved). Nine-foot shoulders will be provided where guardrail is required. The roadway will be designed as a local route using Sub-Regional Tier Guidelines with a 50 mile per hour design speed.

Traffic will be detoured off-site during construction (see Figure 1).

The project is included in the 2016-2025 North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The project location is shown in Figure 1 in Appendix A. Photos of the site are shown in Figures 2 and 3 in Appendix A. Functional design plans are included in Appendix A as Figure 4.

Right of way acquisition and construction for the project are scheduled to begin in federal fiscal years 2019 and 2020, respectively, in the draft 2017-2027 STIP.

B. <u>Description of Need and Purpose:</u>

The purpose of the proposed project is to replace two obsolete bridges.

Bridge Nos. 399 and 400 are both functionally obsolete. Bridge No. 399 is also structurally deficient. The table below presents information regarding the existing bridges.

Bridge No. 399 has reached a status of "Priority Maintenance". The deck has spalling concrete exposing the rebar and chipping in the flange of prestressed concrete box beam. A steel crutch bent has been added to replace a deteriorated interior timber pile.

Bridge No. 400 has also reached "Priority Status". One of the major issues is spalling concrete in the flange of the prestressed concrete beam.

Bridge No.	399	400
Crosses	Big Marsh Swamp	Big Marsh Swamp
Year Built	1968	1968
Clear Roadway Width	29.5 feet	29.6 feet
Length	77 feet	77 feet
Sufficiency Rating	17.58	32.54
Functionally Obsolete?	Yes (Structural Appraisal=3)	Yes (Structural Appraisal=3)
Structurally Deficient?	Yes (Substructure Condition=3)	No
Posted Weight Limit	33 tons SV 38 tons TTST	37 tons SV 37tons TTST

C. <u>Categorical Exclusion Action Classification:</u> (Ch	theck one)
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\boxtimes	TYPE I
	TYPE I

D. <u>Proposed Improvements</u>

28. Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in 23 CFR 771.117(e)(1-6).

E. <u>Special Project Information</u>:

A vicinity map showing the location of the two bridges and the detour route is included in Appendix A as Figure 1. Photographs of the bridges are included in Appendix A as Figures 2 and 3.

NCDOT has sought input from the following agencies as a part of the project development: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NC Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, N.C Wildlife Resources Commission, NC Division of Water Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency. No special concerns were expressed by any of the agencies contacted.

Estimated Costs:

The estimated costs, based on 2017 prices, are as follows:

R/W: \$ 250,000.00 Const: \$1,500,000.00 Utilities: \$ 6,520.00 Total: \$1,756,520.00

Estimated Traffic:

Year 2015 2,600 vehicles per day (vpd)

Year 2040 3,800 vpd

Accidents: No crashes occurred in the vicinity of the project during a recent five-year period.

Design Exceptions: There are no anticipated design exceptions for this project.

Proposed Bridge Length: Both bridges have a proposed bridge length of 110 feet.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations: SR 1741 is not a designated bicycle route, nor does it have any pedestrian accommodations.

Offsite Detour: Bridge Nos. 399 and 400 will be replaced on the existing alignment. Traffic will be detoured offsite (see Figure 1) during the construction period. NCDOT Guidelines for Evaluation of Offsite Detours for Bridge Replacement Projects considers multiple project variables beginning with the additional time traveled by the average road user resulting from the offsite detour. The offsite detour for this project would include SR 1006, US 301, and NC 20. The majority of traffic on the road is through traffic. The detour for the average road user would result in five minutes additional travel time (two and one half miles additional travel). Up to a 24-month construction duration is expected for this project.

Public Involvement: A landowner notification letter and a newsletter were sent to all property owners affected directly by this project. Property owners were invited to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Anticipated Permits: The proposed project will affect approximately 0.4 acre of wetlands based on an area of 25 feet outside of the slope stakes. A Nationwide permit (NWP) 23 (33 CFR 330.5(a) 23)) will likely be required for impacts to "Waters of the United States" resulting from this project. Other permits that may apply include a NWP 33 for temporary construction activities such as stream dewatering, work bridges, or temporary causeways that may be required during bridge construction.

An NCDWR Section 401 Water Quality General Certification may be required prior to the issuance of the Section 404 Permit. Other required 401 certifications may include a GC 3366 for temporary construction access and dewatering. The US Army Corps of Engineers holds the final discretion as to what permit will be required to authorize project construction.

F. Project Impact Criteria Checklists:

Type I &	II - Ground Disturbing Actions		
FHWA APPROVAL ACTIVITIES THRESHOLD CRITERIA			
If any of o	If any of questions 1-7 are marked "yes" then the CE will require FHWA approval. Yes No		
1	Does the project require formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)?		\boxtimes
2	Does the project result in impacts subject to the conditions of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGPA)?		\boxtimes
3	Does the project generate substantial controversy or public opposition, for any reason, following appropriate public involvement?		\boxtimes
4	Does the project cause disproportionately high and adverse impacts relative to low-income and/or minority populations?		\boxtimes
5	Does the project involve a residential or commercial displacement, or a substantial amount of right of way acquisition?		\boxtimes
6	Does the project require an Individual Section 4(f) approval?		\boxtimes
7	Does the project include adverse effects that cannot be resolved with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) or have an adverse effect on a National Historic Landmark (NHL)?		\boxtimes
	questions 8 through 31 are marked "yes" then additional information will be require in Section G.	ed for th	nose
Other Co	<u>nsiderations</u>	Yes	No
8	Does the project result in a finding of "may affect not likely to adversely affect" for listed species, or designated critical habitat under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)?		\boxtimes
9	Is the project located in anadromous fish spawning waters?		\boxtimes
10	Does the project impact waters classified as Outstanding Resource Water (ORW), High Quality Water (HQW), Water Supply Watershed Critical Areas, 303(d) listed impaired water bodies, buffer rules, or Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)?		\boxtimes
11	Does the project impact waters of the United States in any of the designated mountain trout streams?		\boxtimes
12	Does the project require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Individual Section 404 Permit?		\boxtimes
13	Will the project require an easement from a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed facility?		\boxtimes
14	Does the project include a Section 106 of the NHPA effects determination other than a no effect, including archaeological remains?		X

Other Considerations (continued)		Yes	No
15	Does the project involve hazardous materials and/or landfills?		\boxtimes
16	Does the project require work encroaching and adversely affecting a regulatory floodway or work affecting the base floodplain (100-year flood) elevations of a water course or lake, pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 23 CFR 650 subpart A?	\boxtimes	
17	Is the project in a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) county and substantially affects the coastal zone and/or any Area of Environmental Concern (AEC)?		\boxtimes
18	Does the project require a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) permit?		\boxtimes
19	Does the project involve construction activities in, across, or adjacent to a designated Wild and Scenic River present within the project area?		\boxtimes
20	Does the project involve Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) resources?		\boxtimes
21	Does the project impact federal lands (e.g. U.S. Forest Service (USFS), USFWS, etc.) or Tribal Lands?		\boxtimes
22	Does the project involve any changes in access control?		\boxtimes
23	Does the project have a permanent adverse effect on local traffic patterns or community cohesiveness?		\boxtimes
24	Will maintenance of traffic cause substantial disruption?		\boxtimes
25	Is the project inconsistent with the STIP or the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (where applicable)?		\boxtimes
26	Does the project require the acquisition of lands under the protection of Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act, the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), or other unique areas or special lands that were acquired in fee or easement with public-use money and have deed restrictions or covenants on the property?		\boxtimes
27	Does the project involve Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) buyout properties under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)?		\boxtimes
28	Does the project include a <i>de minimis</i> or programmatic Section 4(f)?		\boxtimes
29	Is the project considered a Type I under the NCDOT's Noise Policy?		\boxtimes
30	Is there prime or important farmland soil impacted by this project as defined by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)?		\boxtimes
31	Are there other issues that arose during the project development process that affected the project decision?		\boxtimes

G. Additional Documentation as Required from Section F

Response to Question 8:

Northern long-eared bat (NLEB): The US Fish and Wildlife Service has developed a programmatic biological opinion (PBO) in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration, the US Army Corps of Engineers and NCDOT for the northern long-eared bat in eastern North Carolina. The PBO covers the entire NCDOT program in Divisions 1-8, including all NCDOT

projects and activities. The programmatic determination for northern long-eared bat for the NCDOT program in Divisions 1-8 is "May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect." The PBO will provide incidental take coverage for northern long-eared bat and will ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for five years for all NCDOT projects with a federal nexus in Divisions 1-8, which includes Robeson County.

Response to Question 16:

Robeson County is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Based on the most current information available from the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP), these stream crossings are in a designated flood hazard zone.

The proposed bridge replacements will provide equivalent or greater conveyance than that of the existing bridges. The Hydraulics Unit will coordinate with the FMP, the delegated state agency administering FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, to determine the status of the project with regard to applicability of NCDOT'S Memorandum of Agreement with FMP, or approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) and subsequent final Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to a FEMA-regulated stream. Therefore, the Division shall submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project construction, certifying the drainage structures and roadway embankment located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically.

H. <u>Project Commitments</u>

Robeson County
Bridges Numbers 399 and 400
Carrying SR 1741 (Old Stage Road) over Big Marsh Swamp
WBS No. 17BP.6.R.101, 17BP.6.R.102
TIP No. B-5511

Division Six Construction, Resident Engineer's Office

Robeson County Emergency Services will be contacted at (910) 671-3150 at least one month prior to road closure to make the necessary temporary reassignments to primary response units.

Robeson County Schools will be contacted at (910) 671-6000 at least one month prior to road closure to allow temporary rerouting of school buses.

This project involves construction activities on or adjacent to a FEMA-regulated stream. Therefore, the Division shall submit sealed as-built construction plans to the Hydraulics Unit upon completion of project construction, certifying the drainage structures and roadway embankment located within the 100-year floodplain were built as shown in the construction plans, both horizontally and vertically.

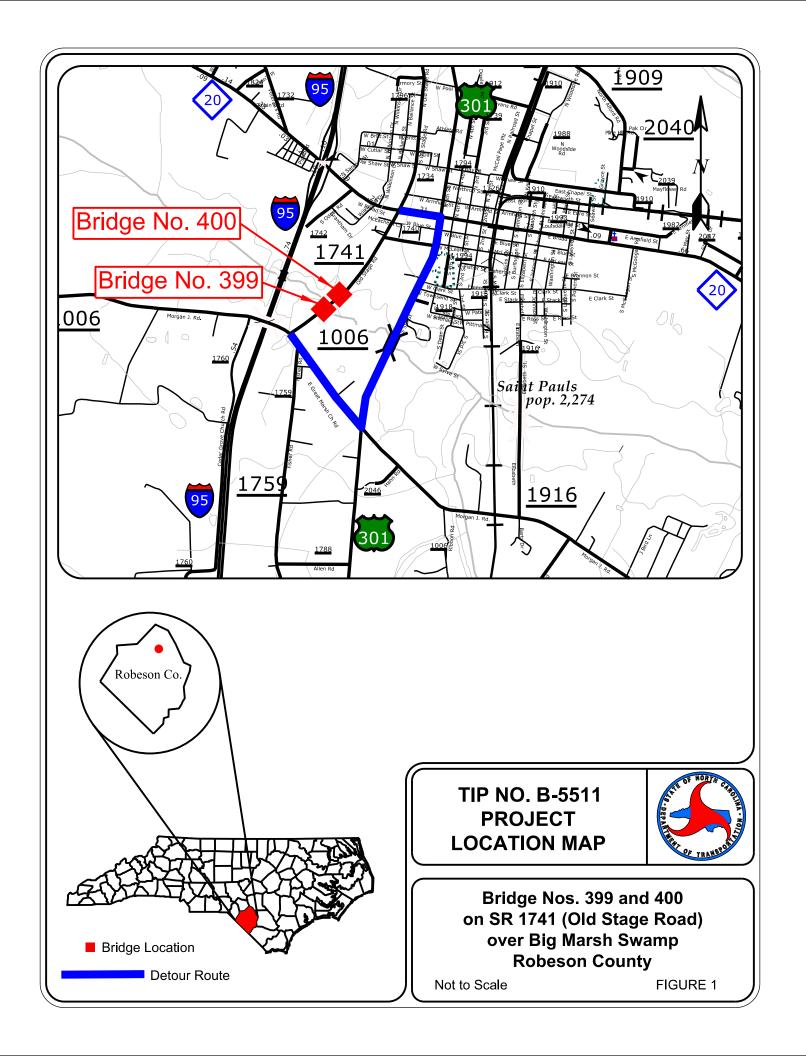
Hydraulics Unit

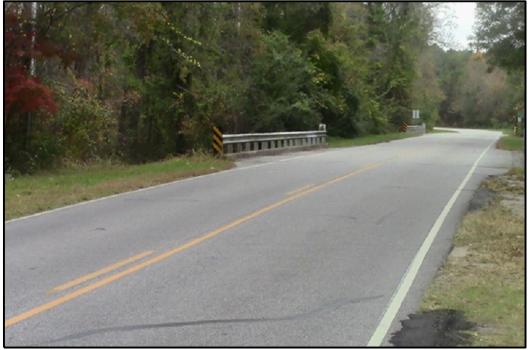
The Hydraulics Unit will coordinate with the Floodplain Mapping Program, the delegated state agency administering FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program, to determine the status of the project with regard to applicability of NCDOT'S Memorandum of Agreement with FMP, or approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) and subsequent final Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

I. <u>Categorical Exclusion Approval</u>

STIP Project No.		B-5511	
WBS Element		17BP.6.R.101, 17BP.6.R.102	
Federal Project No.			
Prepared By:		DocuSigned by:	
6/9/2017		Stephen C. Grune	
Date	Stephen (Ramey K	C. Greene, P.E., Vice President emp & Associates, Inc.	
Prepared For:		evelopment and Environmental Analysis Unit rolina Department of Transportation	
Reviewed By:			
6/9/2017		Joseph Miller	
Date	Project De	. Miller, PE, Project Planning Engineer evelopment and Environmental Analysis Unit rolina Department of Transportation	
⊠ Appro	oved	If all of the threshold questions (1 through 7) of Section F are answered "no," NCDOT approves this Categorical Exclusion.	
Certif	ied	If any of the threshold questions (1 through 7) of Section F are answered "yes," NCDOT certifies this Categorical Exclusion.	
6/9/2017		DocuSigned by:	
Date	Project De	James McInnis, Jr., PE, Project Engineer Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit North Carolina Department of Transportation	
FHWA Approve	e <u>d:</u> For Projec required.	cts Certified by NCDOT (above), FHWA signature	
	N/A	W. DE Division of the second o	
Date		fullivan, III, PE, Division Administrator	

APPENDIX A

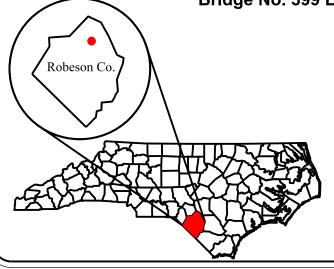




Bridge No. 399 Looking Northeast



Bridge No. 399 Looking Southeast



TIP NO. B-5511
Pictures of
Existing Conditions



Bridge Nos. 399 on SR 1741 (Old Stage Road) over Big Marsh Swamp Robeson County

Not to Scale

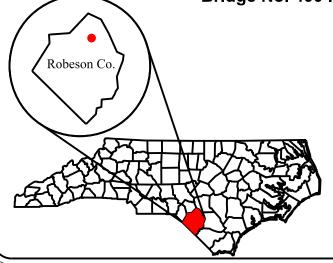
FIGURE 2



Bridge No. 400 looking Southwest



Bridge No. 400 looking Southeast



TIP NO. B-5511
Pictures of
Existing Conditions



Bridge Nos. 400 on SR 1741 (Old Stage Road) over Big Marsh Swamp Robeson County

Not to Scale

FIGURE 3

